IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended)   A method comprising:

receiving data in a receive buffer; ~~and~~

sending a hold command to a transmitting node currently sending data to hold transmission of additional data when a level of said data in said receive buffer reaches an adjustable high threshold level; and

holding transmission of said additional data until said data in said receive buffer reaches an adjustable low threshold level.

2. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein said adjustable high threshold is adjustable in response to a transmission rate of said additional data.

3. (Original)   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a hold acknowledge command acknowledging said hold command, and wherein said adjustable high threshold level is adjustable in response to an elapsed time interval between sending of said hold command and receiving of said hold acknowledge command.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended)   An apparatus comprising:

circuitry capable of receiving data in a receive buffer, and sending a hold command to a transmitting node currently sending data to hold transmission of additional data when a level of said data in said receive buffer reaches an adjustable high threshold level, wherein said circuitry is further capable of holding transmission of said additional data until said data in said receive buffer reaches an adjustable low threshold level.

7. (Original)   The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said adjustable high threshold is adjustable in response to a transmission rate of said additional data.

8. (Original)   The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said circuitry is further capable of receiving a hold acknowledge command acknowledging said hold command, and wherein said adjustable high threshold level is adjustable in response to an elapsed time interval between sending of said hold command and receiving of said hold acknowledge command.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended)   An article comprising:

circuitry comprising a receive buffer to receive data, said receive buffer having a high threshold level, and said circuitry capable of sending a hold command to a transmitting node sending data to hold transmission of additional data when a level of said data in said receive buffer reaches said high threshold level, wherein said circuitry is further capable of maintaining said command to hold transmission of said additional data until said data in said receive buffer reaches a low threshold level; and

a storage medium having stored therein instructions that when executed by a machine results in the following:

adjusting said high threshold level; and
adjusting said low threshold level.

12. (Original) The article of claim 11, wherein said storage medium having stored therein instructions that when executed by said machine also results in the following:

adjusting said high threshold level in response to a transmission rate of said additional data.

13. (Original) The article of claim 11, wherein said storage medium having stored therein instructions that when executed by said machine also results in the following:

adjusting said high threshold level in response to an elapsed time interval from said sending of said hold command to receipt of a hold acknowledge command from said transmitting node.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended)   The article of claim 11 ~~15~~, wherein said storage medium having stored therein instructions that when executed by said machine also results in the following:

adjusting said low threshold level in response to a transmission rate of said additional data.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended)   The system of claim 22 ~~17~~, wherein said adjustable high threshold is adjustable in response to a transmission rate of said additional data.

19. (Currently amended)   The system of claim 22 ~~17~~, wherein said <u>link layer</u> circuitry is further capable of receiving a hold acknowledge command acknowledging said hold command, and wherein said adjustable high threshold level is adjustable in response to an elapsed time interval between sending of said hold command and receiving of said hold acknowledge command.

20. (Currently amended)   The system of claim 22 ~~17~~, wherein said <u>link layer</u> circuitry is further capable of <u>maintaining the hold command</u> holding transmission of said additional data until said data in said receive buffer reaches a low threshold level.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said low threshold level comprises an adjustable low threshold level.

22. (New) A system comprising:

at least one receive buffer;

buffer control circuitry configured to control storage of data in and retrieval of data from the at least one receive buffer, the buffer control circuitry being configured to sense when a level of data in the receive buffer reaches an adjustable high threshold level; and

link layer circuitry configured to send a hold command to a transmitting node currently sending data in response to the buffer control circuitry sensing that the level of data in the receive buffer reaches the adjustable high threshold level, the link layer circuitry being compatible with a Serial Advanced Technology Attachment (SATA) protocol or a Serial Attached Small Computer Systems Interface (SAS) protocol.

23. (New) The system of claim 22 further comprising PHY layer circuitry configured to interface with a communication link or to another PHY.

24. (New) The system of claim 22 wherein the hold command includes a HOLD primitive.